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BY

CHARLOTTE PALMER.

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Miss C. PALMER returns her moſt ſincere Thanks to the reſpectable Subſcribers, who have given their Support to this Work; particularly to thoſe Gentlemen of ſuperior Erudition who have condeſcended to honour the humble Performance with their Names. She very anxiouſly hopes (if They approve) They will continue to protect It, by their Recommendation, againſt the Attacks of envious Pedantry.

UNDER the Patronage of JOHN WILLIAM ANDERSON, Esq. M. P. to whom I moſt reſpectfully return my grateful Thanks, for the Honour He has conferred upon Me, I ſend forth this newly-invented Copy-Book, for the Inſpection of School-Maſters and private Tutors. I am far from arrogantly attempting to teach Thoſe who are wiſer than Myſelf, nor do I preſume to offer a finiſhed Syſtem; having only ſtruck out a ſimple Plan, for the more Skillfull* to improve upon. However, as an eaſy and ſpeedy Mode of attaining and retaining the principal Parts of Speech, I hope I may be allowed to recommend It; for, having Myſelf taught Writing to young Ladies above nine Years, I am capable of judging, by the Improvement of my Pupils, of the Facility with which, by this Method, They have acquired the firſt Rudiments of Grammar.

The Cuſtom of diſtinguiſhing Subſtantives, by beginning with Capitals, is far from general, except the Names of Perſons and Places, nor do I wiſh to influence Thoſe who are of the Opinion that more is unneceſſary. I will only bring one Inſtance to prove how entirely the Senſe of a beautiful Sentence may be loſt, by the injudicious Uſe of a ſmall Letter in a wrong Place. In ſome elegant Lines, written alternately by Dr. Johnſon and Mrs. Piozzi, the two following occur:

"The Tempeſt gives the Calm Delight:
"The Morning owes her Charms to Night."

In the firſt Line, the Delight of a Calm is oppoſed to the Horrors of a Tempeſt. Whereas, if written thus,

"The Tempeſt gives the *c*alm Delight,"

the Subſtantive, merely by beginning with a ſmall Letter, becomes an Adjective, and the Meaning is obviouſly this: "The Tempeſt is *calmly delightful*:" Nor does the Article, *the*, preceding It, obviate the Error.

However indifferent correct Writers may be reſpecting the Uſe of Capitals at the Beginning of *all Subſtantives*, I think there can be no One whoſe Eye is not offended by the illiterate Uſe of Them, at the Beginning of Adjectives; and yet how frequently do We find the Latter uſurping the Privilege of the Former, even in the Letters of Perſons who have had what is called a liberal Education. An *E*legant *w*riter. A *F*aithful *f*riend. A *P*rofeſſional *e*ngagement. &c. &c. are far from uncommon; and yet to point out ſuch Errors to a Friend would perhaps be to loſe a Correſpondent; ſo tenacious is every One of fancied Abilities, and ſo unwilling, in general, to bend to Inſtruction.

It may probably be advanced in Excuſe, that Time will not always admit of ſuch minute Attention to Propriety; but I am very ſure, that, when accuſtomed to uſe Capitals in their proper Places, it would take up conſiderably more Time to place Them wrong than right. Some Words indeed may occur, which, at

* Moſt faſhionable Writers now leave out the double *l* in the Middle and End of Words; and, for the Sake of Swiftneſs in epiſtolary Correſpondences, I generally comply with that Faſhion; but as This is intended for the Inſtruction of Youth, I note the Above, as the Word evidently means *full* of *Skill*.

firſt,

firſt, may occaſion trifling Difficulty, as They do not always expreſs the ſame Part of Speech; but a ready Comprehenſion will ſoon make the Diſtinction: For Inſtance; if I ſend a Letter to a Friend, with Another encloſed, and thus expreſs Myſelf: "I beg the Favour of You to peruſe the *Encloſed*. I write Encloſed with a Capital E or I, becauſe the Subſtantive, *Letter*, is implied: But if I ſay, "the *encloſed Letter*," I then write encloſed with a ſmall e or i. Again, if I ſay "Poverty awaiteth the Profligate," I write Profligate with a capital P: But, if I ſay "the profligate Family, profligate Men, &c. I uſe a ſmall Letter; profligate, then taking Its Place as an Adjective, expreſſing the Failing of the Family, &c. pointed out. — Perſonal Pronouns, as He, She, We, You, Me, &c. have as great a Right to be honoured with Capitals as proper Names of Perſons, being their Subſtitutes or Repreſentatives.

I hope I ſhall not be conſidered as having encroached on an Employment belonging to the oppoſite Sex, nor as endeavouring to diminiſh their Superiority. As ſuch is by no Means my Intention, I flatter Myſelf no Writing-Maſter will be diſpleaſed with Me for ſuggeſting a Plan, which may facilitate the Progreſs of his Scholars in a Study, which every Teacher muſt know is, to five Children out of ſix, dry, difficult, and tedious; and how little Knowledge of Grammar is acquired in ſeveral Years ſpent at School is preſently diſcovered in a ſhort Converſation or Correſpondence even with Thoſe whoſe Education is called *finiſhed*.

It is probable, that ſo great a Diſſection of our Language will take Place in a few Years, that the following Rules will gradually become obſolete. In that Caſe, They may always be regulated by the Standard of the Day.

Dr. Trinder, in his excellent Eſſay on Engliſh Grammar, has obliged his Readers with an Obſervation on the Word *miſtaken*, which is ſo frequently miſuſed. Even Authors of great Reſpectability and Erudition have fallen into the Error; and the ſevereſt Critics, obvious as It is, have paſſed It by unnoticed.

"The Phraſe, *I am miſtaken*," ſays Dr. Trinder, "is frequently and improperly uſed for *I am miſtaking*, "or *I miſtake*. — *I am miſtaken* means that I am *miſunderſtood*; not, as It is uſually applied, that *I miſtake*."

I ſincerely wiſh Dr. Trinder had extended His Obſervation; for, clear as It is, there are Thoſe who will not admit It. Such is the Prevalence of "Tyrant Cuſtom."

If I were to miſunderſtand a Friend, and that Friend ſhould ſay, "You *are* miſtaken," I might very properly aſk this Queſtion; "Who miſtakes Me?" — But, if He ſhould ſay, "You *have* miſtaken," the Phraſe could not then be objected to.

"Miſtaken Fair, lay Sherlock by."

Should be miſtak*ing* Fair.

To make It ſtill more plain, I take the Liberty of making a Remark on the Word *trodden*; which, being, like *miſtaken*, a paſſive Participle, may with Propriety be ranked with It. Should a rude Boy injure a Field of Wheat, and the Farmer thus accoſt Him, "How miſchievouſly *are* You trodden down the "Wheat," His Language would be unintelligible; but, were He to ſay, "How miſchievouſly *have* You "trodden, &c." He would be immediately underſtood.

*Written* may be brought forward as another Evidence for the unfortunate Word *miſtaken*. — "I *am* "*written* my Letter very ill" would not be more improper than I *am miſtaken*, when meant to imply I make a Miſtake. — Place the Verb *have* in the Room of *am*, and both Sentences will be clear.

Preſent

| Preſent Tenſe. | Preterite. | Participle Paſſive. |
|---|---|---|
| Take, | Took, | Taken. |
| Miſtake, | Miſtook, | Miſtaken. |
| Tread, | Trode, | Trodden. |
| Write, | Wrote, | Written. |

Having now finiſhed what I think abſolutely requiſite to the Introduction of my Plan, I conclude with a tremulous Hope, that the Errors which may occur in this Work may be treated with Lenity by higher Grammarians, from whom I ſhould think It an Honour to receive the Advantage of Information. I cannot recollect that I ever rejected INSTRUCTION, and hope I ſhall never "refuſe to liſten to the "Voice of the CHARMER."

Hendon, January, 1797.

When the Scholar has been accuſtomed for a Month or two to write from Copies compoſed in the following Manner, He may then be allowed to write according to the uſual Cuſtom, as at the End of this Book; after which, I am perſuaded, the Teacher will find Him more ready in pointing out the different Parts of Speech, and placing the Capitals, than after a much longer Time, ſpent only in ſtudying the Rules of Grammar. — On my own Experience I found this Opinion, to which I ſubſcribe my Name.

CHARLOTTE PALMER.

## POSTSCRIPT.

Obſerving the Impropriety with which Cards or Notes of Invitation, &c. are frequently written, I take the Liberty of ſubjoining ſome Comments thereon.

Children at School are often directed by their Teachers to write *Letters* to their Parents; but, complimentary *Cards*, being, at an early Age, unneceſſary, ſeldom form a Part of ſcholaſtic Acquirement. They ſhould not however be totally neglected, ſince Nothing is more common than for Envy to ſtamp Ignorance on Thoſe, who, for Want of Information, cannot properly diſtinguiſh the Difference between a Note and a Letter, and yet perhaps the Cenſured may, in other Reſpects, far ſurpaſs the Cenſurer in Depth of Underſtanding. A noble-minded Perſon will never expoſe the Errors of Another, in order to exalt Himſelf; but will ſilently improve by avoiding Them.

A Card or Note ſhould never be begun with the Chriſtian Name. Humility has frequently been the Cauſe of this Fault: ſtill It is wrong. A complimentary Card ſhould always be couched in ſuch Terms as might be expreſſed by a verbal Meſſenger from *one Friend* to the Servant who receives the Meſſage at the Door of *Another*; conſequently, *Mr. Mrs.* or *Miſs*, at the Beginning of a Note, does not denote *Pride* but *Propriety*. Your humble Servant, with the Writer's Name, at the Concluſion, proves, that the Writer does not underſtand the Intention of a Card, which is evidently that of preventing the Miſtakes of Meſſengers.

This ſhort Comment will I hope be ſufficient to prove, that the Words, *I, my, mine, thy, Me, You*, and *yours*, ſhould never be uſed in a Card or Note.*

* In a ſmall Book, entitled "Letters from a Preceptreſs to her Pupils," I have made ſome Obſervations on the ſame Subject, which I hope will not be deemed tautological, as the Letters are intended only for the Uſe of *young Ladies*.

BRITISH MUSEUM

# Substantives.

Conquest. Freedom. Beauty. Joy. Grief.

Substantives should be begun with Capitals.

# Substantives

ending with

ion.

Direction. Reflection. Refraction. Action.

# Substantives

ending with

nefs.

Foolishneſs. Faithfulneſs. Healthineſs.

# Substantives.

ending with

by.

Superiority. Inferiority. Activity. Ability

# Adjectives.

beautiful. fanciful. bountiful. sorrowful.

Adjectives should be written with small Letters except at the Beginning of a Discourse &c. or after a full St.

Note. When ly is added to the Above — They become Adverbs.

Adjectives 2

great little wise proud foolish humble.

# Verbs

work play sing walk dance eat drink read.

Verbs and Participles formed from Verbs, should be written with small Letters, except in Cases as before mentioned concerning Adjectives.

# Verbs.

encourage. endorse. endear. enchant. employ.

_MENT added to the above Verbs changes them to Substantives. when They require a capital Letter.
_ING or _ED added to the Above changes the Verbs to Participles. which should be written with a small L.
When E is the last Letter of the Verb. It must be omitted in the Participle as endorsing &c.

| Sub. | V. | Adj. | Ad. | Part. | S. | S. | S. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Love | love | lovely | lovelily | loving | Loveliness | Lovingkindness | Lover. |

The Observation that Adverbs generally end in ly is apt to mislead young Beginners:.
lovely_ is an Adjective as a lovely Child.
lovelily_ an Advert which expresses Any thing performed in a lovely Manner.
godly_ is an Adjective_ as a godly Man or a good Man.
godly an Advert_ meaning_ in a godly Manner.

Pronomen personale. D

Singular. Plural.

I Thou You He She It. We Ye-They

A faithful Friend is the Medicine of Life.

A_ An Article.
faithful_ an Adjective.
Friend_ A Substantive.
is_ belongs to the third Person singular as I am. Thou art. He is.
the_ an Article.
Medicine_ a Substantive.
of_ a Preposition.
Life_ a Substantive.

An Incitement to Diligence.

Soon fades the Rose, once past the fragrant Flour:
The Loiterer finds a Bramble for a Flower.

Forget not thy Benefits

Benefit which He hath

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It does not appear to Me that Pronouns relative or possessive require at all Times a capital Letter: as They only stand obliquely, and not in the Place of personal Pronouns